IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.	10/016,982	**Conf. No.**	4957
In Re Application of:	Auffray et al.	**Art Unit:**	2176
Filed:	12/24/2001	**Dkt. #:** FR920000065US1 (IBME-0177)	
Title:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FULLFILLING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM A NETWORK CLIENT FOR CHARGE CALCULATIONS	**Examiner:** Bashore, William L.	

Mail Stop Appeal Brief- Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

BRIEF OF APPELLANTS

This is an appeal from the Final Rejection (Office Action) dated December 27,2007, rejecting claims 1 and 3-9. The requisite fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (c) has been submitted on March 27, 2008.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

International Business Machines Corporation is the real party in interest.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There is no related appeal or interference.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

As originally filed, this case included claims 1-12. Claims 2 and 10-12 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-9 remain pending, stand rejected, and form the basis of this appeal. No claim has been allowed. The rejections of claims 1 and 3-9 are being appealed.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Claims 10-12 were cancelled following the Final Rejection of December 27, 2007. The proposed cancellation of claims 10-12 was entered in the Advisory Action dated April 18, 2008.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention is a method of fulfilling requests for information data from a network client in a client-server environment. the information data requested is accessible from a network server and is displayable through a form-based format hypertext document whereby the information data is provided by the filling of dedicated form fields in said hypertext document. The method includes the following steps. Receiving at the network client a hypertext document, and a program component; displaying the hypertext document, the hypertext document having initially no information data filling its form fields; obtaining a request for information from a user of the network client, through a user interface presented to the user as a result of the displaying of the hypertext document, and calling the program component for obtaining the requested information data; upon determination that said requested information data is already or not stored in a buffer memory allocated to the program component in the network client, obtaining the requested data from the buffer memory or downloading them from the network server; filling the appropriate form fields in the hypertext document with the

obtained information data, and displaying the hypertext document with the requested information data contained therein.

Independent claim 1 provides a method of fulfilling requests for information data from a network client (80) (Fig 4), the information data being accessible from a network server (90) (Fig. 4) and being displayable through a form-based format hypertext document whereby said information data is provided by the filling of dedicated form fields in said hypertext document, the method being characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

- receiving (13) (Fig. 1) at the network client, sent from the network server, a hypertext document and a program component (page 13, lines 7-12);

- displaying (31) (Fig. 1) the hypertext document, said hypertext document having initially no information data filling its form fields (page 16, lines 4-15);

- obtaining (41) (Fig. 1) a request for information from a user of said network client through a user interface presented to the user as a result of the displaying of the hypertext document, and calling (43) (Fig. 1) the program component for obtaining the requested information data (page 17, lines 7-19);

- upon determination (51) (Fig.1) that said requested information data is already stored in a buffer memory allocated to the program component in the network client, obtaining (57) (Fig.1) the requested data by retrieving the requested data from the buffer memory and filling (59) (Fig.1) the dedicated form fields in the hypertext document with the retrieved information data (page 18, line 1 to page 19, line 2);

- upon determination (51) (Fig.1) that said requested information data is not stored in the buffer memory allocated to the program component in the network client, the program component obtaining (57) (Fig.1) the requested data by downloading the requested data from the

network server and filling (59) (Fig.1) the dedicated form fields in the hypertext document with the downloaded information data (page 18, line 1 to page 19, line 2);

- displaying the hypertext document with the requested information data contained therein (page 19, lines 1-2);

wherein the user is provided with the capability of modifying at least some of the information data which is presented to him, by changing the content of the corresponding form fields through the user interface, the method comprising the further steps of (page 24, 9-11):

- automatically retrieving (701) (Fig. 2d) the modified information data contained in the form fields and calling (701) (Fig. 2d) the program component in order to store (703) (Fig. 2d) the modified information data in the buffer memory (page 25, line 21 –page 26, line 6);

in response to an action (705) (Fig. 2d) performed by the user through the user interface, said action being performed independently of the retrieval of modified information data, calling (705) the program component in order to separately upload (709) (Fig. 2d) to the network server the modified information data (page 26, lines 7-20).

GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1.   Whether claims claims 1, 3 and 9 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kikinis (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,259), hereafter "Kikinis," in view of Markus et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,601), hereinafter "Markus".

2.   Whether claims 4-8 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kikinis and Markus, and further in view of Bhatia et al. (US Publication No. 2002/0154162), hereafter "Bhatia."

ARGUMENT

1.   Claims 1, 3 and 9 are not obvious over Kikinis in view of Marcus.

The Office asserts that Kikinis teaches typical form with empty field displayed on a client browser and if needed data is not stored in the browser cache, Kikinis fetches data from a server. Kikinis does not teach downloading data from a server if the data is not already on a client. The Office asserts that Marcus teaches filling in a form from a server, whereby a module is created on a private bank server containing the data, the module is sent to the client to be executed, resulting in filling is the form. The Office then concludes that that is would have been obvious to apply Markus to Kikinis to obtain the claimed invention.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that the suggested combination of the cited references does not disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, "calling (701) the program component in order to store (703) the modified information data in the buffer memory [and] calling (705) the program component in order to separately upload (709) to the network server the modified information data." (Claim 1). The Examiner admits that Kikinis does not teach downloading data from a server if the data is not already on the client and using said data for filling in said HTML form accordingly. In Markus, "[t]he completed form is examined by the privacy bank server which updates its raw data repository to reflect any changes[.]" (Col. 12, lines 17-20). Markus does not disclose or suggest that the JavaScript program 324 saves and uploads modified information. Because the privacy bank server of Markus examines the completed form directly to update its raw data repository, Markus does not include <u>uploading</u> the modified information. Moreover, Markus does not teach saving the modified information in a

buffer memory by a program component. Therefore, the combination proposed by the Examiner would not yield Appellant's invention as the feature of storing (703) the modified information data in the buffer memory [and] calling (705) the program component in order to separately upload (709) to the network server the modified information data is not found in either reference. As such, the suggested combination of Kikinis and Markus does not render the claimed invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

2.   Claims 4-8 are not obvious over Kikinis and Markus in view of Bhatia.

Bhatia is cited by the Examiner to show form filling using JavaScript. Applicants submit that Bhatia does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary combination of Kikinis and Markus. In view of the foregoing, the Office fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, Appellant submits that the final rejection is defective, and should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,
/Hunter E. Webb/

Dated: 07/02/2008
_____
Hunter E. Webb
Reg. No. 54,593
(CFR)

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
75 State Street, 14th Floor
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 449-0044
(518) 449-0047 (fax)

1.   A method of fulfilling requests for information data from a network client (80), said information data being accessible from a network server (90) and being displayable through a form-based format hypertext document whereby said information data is provided by the filling of dedicated form fields in said hypertext document, the method being characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

      - receiving (13) at the network client, sent from the network server, a hypertext document and a program component;

      displaying (31) the hypertext document, said hypertext document having initially no information data filling its form fields;

      - obtaining (41) a request for information from a user of said network client through a user interface presented to the user as a result of the displaying of the hypertext document, and calling (43) the program component for obtaining the requested information data;

      - upon determination (51) that said requested information data is already stored in a buffer memory allocated to the program component in the network client, obtaining (57) the requested data by retrieving the requested data from the buffer memory and filling (59) the dedicated form fields in the hypertext document with the retrieved information data;

      - upon determination (51) that said requested information data is not stored in the buffer memory allocated to the program component in the network client, the program component obtaining (57) the requested data by downloading the requested data from the network server and filling (59) the dedicated form fields in the hypertext document with the downloaded information data;

- displaying the hypertext document with the requested information data contained therein;

wherein the user is provided with the capability of modifying at least some of the information data which is presented to him, by changing the content of the corresponding form fields through the user interface, the method comprising the further steps of:

- automatically retrieving (701) the modified information data contained in the form fields and calling (701) the program component in order to store (703) the modified information data in the buffer memory;

in response to an action (705) performed by the user through the user interface, said action being performed independently of the retrieval of modified information data, calling (705) the program component in order to separately upload (709) to the network server the modified information data.

3. Method according to claim 1, wherein the step of displaying (31) the hypertext document, is preceded by a step (20) of user authentication, upon which, if the user connection to the network server is accepted, said displaying step (31) is performed.

4. Method according to claim 1, wherein said hypertext document is a HTML document and wherein the content of the form fields is managed by a script program referenced in said HTML document by appropriate tags, said script program being notably responsible for calling the program component for triggering a download of information data requested by the user, for automatically retrieving from the form fields modified information data and calling the program

component for temporarily storing the modified information data in the buffer memory, and for calling the program component for triggering an upload of previously stored modified information data.

5.   Method according to claim 4, wherein the step (41) of obtaining a request for information from a user, includes the following sub-steps:

- using (403) said script program to retrieve selection data entered (401) by the user through said user interface, said selection data defining a category of information to be looked up;

- using (405, 407) said program component for sending (405) said selection data to the network server, for receiving (407) in response, from the server, a record identification list corresponding to the information category selected, and storing (407) said identification list into the buffer memory;

- using (413) said script program to call the program component in order to retrieve information data relative to a current record identified in said record identification list.

6.   Method according to claim 4, wherein said HTML document includes at least two frames and wherein said script program and said program component are referenced in the HTML document within two different frames.

7.   Method according to claim 4, wherein said script program is a JavaScript program.

8.   Method according to claim 4, wherein said program component is a Java applet referenced in said HTML document by appropriate tags.

9.   Method according to claim 1, wherein said hypertext document and/or said information data is downloaded or uploaded from or to the network server by using the HTTP protocol.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no evidence submitted.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There is no related proceeding.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICES

There is no other party to this appeal proceeding.